

ELK GROVE **COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

Fire ◆ Emergency Medical ◆ Parks & Recreation

FIRE DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release: January 7, 2003

Elk Grove CSD Fire Department News Release:

STATE DEPLOYS SACRAMENTO REGIONAL STRIKE TEAM TO MALIBU FIRE

Date/Time of Incident: January 6, 2003, 2400 hrs.

Type of Emergency: State Mutual Aid Assistance – Wildland Fire Location: Pacific Fire – Pacific Coast Highway – Trancas Canyon

OES Request Number: 03004627

Elk Grove, CA – Elk Grove Community Services District (CSD) Fire Department personnel joined other Sacramento regional firefighters early this morning forming a strike team bound for Malibu's "Pacific Fire".

Five state engines staffed with local firefighters departed just before 6 a.m. today bound for the Malibu blaze as part of the statewide mutual aid assistance plan managed by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES). Units were staffed by firefighters from the Elk Grove CSD Fire Department, Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, Woodland, Winters, and other Departments from Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties. Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District Battalion Chief Jim Woodward was assigned to serve as strike team leader. The team is expected to provide structure protection to homes in area.

The five engines from the Sacramento region will join forty other OES units representing 20 counties. Personnel from the California Department of Forestry (CDF) and the California Conservation Corps have also been assigned to battle the blaze.

Downed electrical lines are believed to be the cause of the fire that started on Monday. Santa Ana wind gusts of up to 70 mph have spurred the fire to spread, burning more than 2,200 acres, causing minor damage to three homes, and forcing the evacuations of residents in Encinal and Decker canyons, not far from the Ventura County line. An additional 400 homes and other structures are still threatened.

According to the OES, fire officials hope to have the blaze controlled late today, when the winds are expected to calm.

Elk Grove CSD Fire Department personnel assigned to the strike team are Captain Jim Mackensen, Engineer Steve Horning, and Firefighters Rick Clarke and Casey Robinson. For now, there is no estimated date for the team's return.

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